COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT, 1905,

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk.

Twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

On the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Cosford Rural District of the Cosford Union, during the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1905.

(Eleventh Annual Report to the Cosford District Council.)

Population (1891) 12354, (1901) 11618, *(Males* 5809, *Females* 5809*).*
Area, 48328 *acres. Number of Persons per acre*, 0.2.
Number of Inhabited Houses, 2703. *Number of Persons per Inhabited House*, 4.2.

I. Births. The number of births registered during the year was **283**, (138 males and 145 females,) making a birth-rate of **24.3** per thousand of the population, shewing a very slight variation from the two preceding years. The births and birth-rates during the past five years were as follows :—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Births	327	278	282	281	283
Birth-rates ...	28.1	23.9	24.2	24.1	24.3

II. Deaths. The number of deaths from all causes was **138**, (79 males and 59 females,) making a death-rate of only **11.8** per thousand of the population. The deaths and death-rates for the past five years were :—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Deaths	179	194	169	169	138
Death-rates ...	15.4	16.6	14.5	14.5	11.8

Infantile Mortality. There were 18 deaths among infants under 1 year of age, being 63.6 per thousand on the registered births. Only 3 of these (an exceptionally small nnmber) occurred in the Hadleigh Division of the District. The proportions of deaths under 1 year of age to births in the last five years were :—

1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
107.0	129.4	108.5	106.7	63.6

Zymotic Diseases. There were only four deaths during the year due to zymotic diseases. They were—Diphtheria 1, Epidemic Influenza 3. The zymotic deaths and death-rates in the past five years were as follows :—

	Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever.	Diarrhœa. Dysentery.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Epidemic Influenza.	Erysipelas.	Totals.	Death-rates.
1901	—	—	2	1	1	2	—	—	8	1	15	1.29
1902	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	11	3	—	19	1.6
1903	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	5	—	10	.8
1904	—	1	5	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	9	.7
1905	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	5	.4

Deaths from all other causes were **134** or **11.5** per thousand of the population. The deaths in this district caused by the principal diseases, and death-rates during the past five years were :—

	Phthisis.	Bronchitis. Pleurisy. Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Injury.	Other Diseases.	Totals.	Death-rates.
1901...	9	23	18	2	112	164	14.1
1902...	13	28	27	1	106	175	15.0
1903...	9	14	21	3	112	159	13.6
1904...	9	18	19	4	110	160	13.7
1905...	10	13	15	3	93	133	11.1

III. The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act. The total number of cases notified in this district in 1905 was **69**, or **5.9** per thousand of the population. The cases notified during the past five years were :—

	Smallpox.	Continued Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Memb. Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Totals.	Per Thousand of Population.
1901	—	—	4	17	—	5	—	2	28	2.4
1902	—	—	18	2	—	—	2	—	22	1.8
1903	—	—	66	2	—	5	—	2	75	6.5
1904	—	—	33	17	1	1	—	4	56	4.8
1905	—	—	51	6	—	4	1	7	69	5.9

Small Pox. There were no cases of small pox in the district during the year.

Scarlet Fever. There were **51** cases notified during the year (none fatal). Of these thirty-six were at Lavenham, nine at Polstead, three at Cockfield, one at Bildeston, one at Nedging, and one at Semer. The disease was in every case of a mild character. The usual precautions were taken in the matter of disinfection, and as far as possible, isolation; but in many cases in cottage homes, isolation is quite impracticable.

Diphtheria. There were six cases during the year. One, which proved fatal, at Whatfield. The others were—two at Lindsey, one at Cockfield, one at Lavenham, and one at Polstead. The case at Whatfield was imported from Cockfield, from a house in which there had been a death from the same cause a short time previously (at the end of 1904). That at Cockfield was one of a servant girl who had been sent home ill from an adjoining district. The case at Lavenham was that of a medical man who contracted the disease from a patient.

At Lindsey the disease appeared in children attending the school, and was evidently contracted from an unnotified case in a family living in a very over-crowded condition, and with a foul cesspool situated only a few yards from the back door.

The school was not closed, but any children with a suspicion of sore throat were excluded, and there was no further spread of the disease.

The anti-toxin required for treatment of the cases was provided at the expense of the Council.

Typhoid Fever. There were four cases notified during the year. One at Aldham and three at Lavenham. Of these three, one turned out to be tuberculosis. Another was that of a servant girl who came home ill from a neighbouring town. In the third there was nothing to shew how the disease was contracted. There were no sanitary defects on the premises, and the water supply was perfectly good.

In the case at Aldham the water supply was very bad—being obtained from a very foul pond.

Puerperal Fever. One case of septicæmia (fatal) was notified at Lavenham.

It is a noticeable fact that two cases of infectious diseases reported—one of typhoid fever, and one of diphtheria, were those of domestic servants who had been sent home ill from other districts. The practice, which I am sorry to say is not nncommon, of sending home servants when they are ill without ascertaining the nature of the illness is one to be strongly condemned. In many instances the employers must at least have suspicions concerning the character of the disease, and wilfully refrain from verifying the facts, not caring that they are endangering others if they can get rid of all risk and inconvenience themselves.

IV. Water Supply. The villages in the district provided with public wells, from which they partly derive their water supply are :—Cockfield, Groton, Hitcham, Lindsey, Lavenham, Monks Eleigh, Polstead, and Whatfield.

Those parishes which depend almost entirely on ponds for their water supply are :—Aldham, Brettenham, Elmsett, Kettlebaston, Milden, Naughton, Nedging, Thorpe Morieux, Preston, and Wattisham.

Hitcham. The work at Hitcham has advanced one step further during the year. A pump has been erected and the supply tested, with satisfactory results. The point now under consideration by the Council is the respective advantages and disadvantages of a windmill and an oil engine as a motive power for working the pump.

Elmsett. The site of the Parish Pound has been acquired by the Council for the new well, and boring operations have been commenced.

Twelve samples of water were analysed by me during the year, and five of these were condemned as unfit for drinking and culinary purposes.

V. Sewerage. A public scavenger has been appointed for Lavenham, and the scheme having worked for some months satisfactorily, the proposed substitution of pail closets for the existing system will be shortly carried into effect.

VI. Houses and Cottages. One cottage has been condemned during the year as unfit for human habitation. Six have been put into repair and cleaned. There have been two cases of overcrowding.

VII. Factory and Workshop Act. The Factories in this district only come under the jurisdiction of this Act in respect to fire, and they are all provided with sufficient means of escape in case of emergency.

The only workshops in the district are the Bake-houses. There are nineteen of these, which have all been inspected during the year. They are all above ground, and were all satisfactory.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, is not in force in the district.

VIII. Isolation Hospital. None.

IX. Sanitary Inspection. Report of Mr. Scrivener, Inspector of Nuisances—"A house-to-house inspection of the district was made during the year, and 108 notices were served for the abatement of nuisances, a list of which in the several parishes is given in the Table at the end of this Report. 105 of these nuisances have been abated."

X. Special Reports. None.

The Tabular Statements according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, of sickness and mortality in the district (including an additional Table of Infant mortality) are appended to this Report. Also a Tabular Statement according to a form required by the West Suffolk County Council.

ALFRED THOMPSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.—Cosford Rural District.

For Whole District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births. Number.	Births. Rate*	Deaths under One Year of age. Number.	Deaths under One Year of age. Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages. Total. Number.	Deaths at all Ages. Total. Rate*	Deaths in Public Institutions.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1895 ..	12354	370	29.9	41	110.8	216	17.4	23
1896 ..	..	341	27.6	37	108.5	221	17.8	23
1897 ..	..	338	27.3	23	68.0	173	14.0	12
1898 ..	..	320	25.9	40	125.	200	16.1	18
1899 ..	..	310	25.0	25	80.6	167	13.5	16
1900 ..	..	325	26.3	35	107.6	196	15.8	19
1901 ..	11618	327	28.1	35	107.0	179	15.4	17
1902 ..	..	278	23.9	36	129.4	194	16.6	19
1903 ..	..	282	24.2	34	120.5	169	14.5	10
1004 ..	..	281	24.1	30	106.7	169	14.5	13
Averages for years 1895 to 1904..	..	317.2	26.2	33.6	106.4	188.4	15.5	17.0
1905 ..	11618	283	24.3	18	63.6	138	11.8	19

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

At census of 1901—

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ..	48572
Total Population at all ages	11618
Number of Inhabited Houses	2703
Average Number of Persons per house	4.2

TABLE V.—Cosford Rural District.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 M'th	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes:																	
Certified	5	2	3	1	11	2	..	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	..	..	18
Uncertified	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	..	..	...	.	...	...	...	...	..	...
Common Infectious Diseases																	
Small-pox	..	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	.	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	..	..	...
Diphtheria: Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	...	..	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœal Diseases:																	
Diarrhœa, all forms ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis (*not Tuberculous*)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	.	...	.	...	...
Wasting Diseases:																	
Premature Birth	4	...	...	...	4	1	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	6
Congenital Defects ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Injury at Birth	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Want of Breast-milk ...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1	1	2	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Tuberculous Diseases:																	
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis	...	...	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Suffocation, Overlaying ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Other causes	...	...	1	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3

District (or Sub-division) of Cosford Rural District.

Births in the year { legitimate... } ... 283
{ illegitimate }

Deaths from all causes at all ages..... 138

Population, estimated to middle of 1905 11618

TABLE II.—Cosford Rural District.

Names of Localities.	1. WHOLE DISTRICT.				2. HADLEIGH DIVISION.				3. LAVENHAM DIVISION.			
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under one year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under one year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under one year.
	a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*a.*	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*a.*	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*
1895 ...	12354	370	216	41	4483	156	72	12	7871	214	144	29
1896 ...	...	341	221	37	...	146	85	16	...	195	136	21
1897 ...	...	338	173	23	...	141	63	10	...	197	110	13
1898 ...	...	320	200	40	...	124	82	18	...	196	118	22
1899 ..	...	310	167	25	..	103	62	7	...	207	115	18
1900 ..	...	325	196	35	...	134	70	10	..	191	126	25
1901 ...	11618	327	179	35	4737	130	68	11	6881	197	111	24
1902 ..	...	278	194	36	...	103	89	16	...	175	105	20
1903 ...	...	282	169	34	...	115	53	8	...	167	106	26
1904 ...	...	281	169	30	...	103	62	8	..	178	107	22
Averages of years 1895 to 1904 ...	...	317.2	188 4	33.6	...	125.5	70.6	11.6	...	191.7	117.8	22.0
1905 ...	11618	283	138	18	4737	108	55	3	6881	175	83	15

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1905.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District. At all ages.	At ages—Years. Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up'wds	Tot'l cases notified in each locality. 1	2	3
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	6	...	1	3	1	1	...	6	3	3
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	7	...	1	...	1	3	2	7	2	5
Scarlet Fever ...	51	2	20	22	4	3	...	51	10	41
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	4	1	3
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Continued Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	69	2	22	25	10	8	2	69	16	53

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ... ... NONE.

TABLE IV.—Cosford District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1905.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole district at subjoined ages. All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 5	5 and under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Deaths in Localities. (at all ages.) 1	2	3	Deaths in Public Institutions.
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Enteric ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { other continued ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza ..	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	..	3	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	10	..	..	..	3	7	..	10	5	5	..
Other tubercular diseases	5	..	..	1	2	2	..	5	2	3	..
Cancer, malignant disease	15	..	..	..	..	5	10	15	7	7	1
Bronchitis	10	1	1	..	..	..	8	10	3	6	1
Pneumonia . ..	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	1	1	1
Pleurisy..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism / Cirrhosis of Liver ..	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	2	1	1
Venereal Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth ..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	5	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..
Heart Diseases.. ..	15	..	..	..	1	5	9	15	5	8	2
Accidents	3	..	1	..	..	2	..	3	1	2	..
Suicides	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..
All other causes ..	59	10	3	2	..	7	37	59	14	32	13
All causes ..	138	18	6	3	6	36	69	138	43	76	19

Cosford Rural District

In the Administrative County of
West Suffolk.

1905.

Twenty-seventh Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

BY

ALFRED THOMPSON, L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S., Eng.

(Eleventh Annual Report to the Cosford Rural District Council.)

MARTEN, STEAM PRINTER, SUDBURY.

Sanitary Statistics of Cosford Rural District, for the Year 1905.

Subjects	Aldham	Bildeston	Boxford	Brent Eleigh	Brettenham	Chelsworth	Cockfield	Edwardstone	Elmsett	Groton	Hadleigh Hamlet	Hitcham	Kersey	Kettlebaston	Lavenham	Layham	Lindsey	Milden	Monks Eleigh	Naughton	Nedging	Polstead	Preston	Semer	Thorpe Morieux	Wattisham	Whatfield	Workhouse	Total.
Acreage	1765	1171	1325	1684	1438	877	3626	1891	1992	1560	427	4308	1510	1041	2898	2531	1230	1343	2099	980	856	3414	2006	1242	2497	1272	1599	...	48572
Population—1901	238	788	612	182	273	199	854	416	361	358	183	755	482	129	2018	464	221	152	553	142	171	669	288	‡182	370	149	317	92	11618
1891	228	736	682	221	336	227	926	420	434	437	191	874	482	120	1908	542	253	160	547	144	200	745	318	‡189	385	178	365	116	12554
I. Births—	6	22	10	2	9	6	25	7	12	5	3	17	15	4	53	5	8	...	20	.	6	14	4	4	2	5	9	10	283
,, 1905—Rate per 1000	25.2	27.9	16.3	10.9	32.9	30.1	29.2	16.8	30.4	13.9	16.3	22.5	31.1	31.0	26.2	10.7	36.1	...	36.1	...	35.0	20.9	13.8	21.9	5.4	33.5	28.3	108.6	24.3
1904—Rate per 1000	16.8	25.3	16.3	43.9	40.2	25.1	24.5	24.0	22.1	27.9	38.2	23.8	20.7	31.0	25.2	4.3	31.6	32.8	27.1	35.2	23.3	22.4	27.7	16.4	10.8	26.8	25.2	43.4	24.1
II. Deaths, Zymotic—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5
Rate per 1000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.4	...	...	...	...	...	5.8	...	...	...	...	...	3.1	...	0.4
From other Causes ...	...	...	8	2	4	2	7	2	...	2	2	1	9	2	24	6	2	1	6	3	1	3	3	...	2	4	3	19	133
,, Rate per 1000	...	4	8.0	10.9	14.6	10.0	8.1	4.8	...	5.5	5.5	1	12	2	11.3	12.9	...	6.5	10.8	21.1	5.8	4.4	10.4	10.9	8.1	6.8	9.4	206.5	11.1
Total	...	4	8	2	4	2	7	4	...	2	5	1	9	2	27	6	...	1	6	3	2	3	2	2	3	4	4	19	138
1905—Rate per 1000	...	5.0	13.0	10.9	14.6	10.0	8.1	4.8	...	5.5	5.5	2	18	4	12.9	...	...	6.5	10.8	21.1	11.6	4.4	10.4	10.9	8.1	6.8	12.6	266.5	11.8
1904—Rate per 1000	8.4	7.6	17.9	27.4	7.3	30.1	16.2	4.8	11.0	16.7	32.7	1	7	2	17.8	6.4	13.5	6.5	12.6	14.0	5.8	5.8	13.8	...	16.2	13.4	15.7	141.3	14.5
III. Infectious Diseases—																													
(Notification Act.)																													
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	7
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Typhus and other Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1	...	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	45	...	2	...	...	...	1	10	...	1	...	...	1	...	69
IV. Water Supply*	...	1	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	21
Sanitary Inspection† ...	2	8	6	...	1	2	7	1	2	5	5	1	2	...	25	3	3	...	7	4	4	6	1	...	4	1	3	...	108

‡ Excludes population of Workhouse. See column "Workhouse."

*Public Supply. †Notices Issued.